## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 01 BANGKO 01740 302325Z 64 **ACTION EA-10** INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /060 W ----- 102259 P 301339Z JAN 75 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO CINCPAC PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 321 OASD PA WASHDC PRIORITY JCS WASHDC AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH AMEMBASSY SAIGON COMUSSAG NAKHON PHANOM APRT TH COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH CHMEDTC PHNOM PENH CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB NE CSAF WASHDC SAFOI AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE CINCPAC PA LNO BANGKOK TH 3ADIV ANDERSON AFB GUAM MI 307SW UTAPAO AFLD TH 635CSG UTAPAO AFLD TH 13AF CLARK AB RP 13AF ADVON UDORN AFLD TH CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI 7RRFS RAMASUN STA TH 6233ABS UBON AFLD TH FASU UTAPAO RTNAF TH PACAF PROCUREMENT CENTER BANGKOK TH THAILAND ALCC UTAPAO RTNAF TH CINCPACFLT MAKALOPA HI COMSEVENTHFLT CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 1740 E. O. 11652: GDS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 01740 302325Z

TAGS: PFOR, PINS

## SUBJ: BASE MEDIA VISITS POSTPONED

- 1. AT REQUEST OF CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN, BASE MEDIA VISITS PROPOSED FOR JAN. 31 AT UTAPAO AND FEB. 3 AT UBON HAVE BEEN POSTPONED.
- 2. GEN. KRIANGSAK EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ANY PRESS VISIT TO US-TENANTED MILITARY FACILITIES DURING THIS SENSITIVE TIME OF THAILAND'S POST-ELECTION PERIOD WHEN A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMED. HE RECOUNTED RTG EFFORTS TO AVOID PUBLICITY OF US MILITARY PRESENCE DURING RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HE WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE THAT EFFORT UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE.
- 3. POLMIL COUNSELOR EXPRESSED US APPRECIATION RTG EFFORT TO AVOID UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY US MILITARY PRESENCE BUT POINTED OUT PRESS VISIT TO UTAPAO TO SEE BIRD AIR OPERATION MIGHT BE LESS SENSITIVE NOW THAN LATER, WHEN THAT ACTIVITY COULD POSSIBLY BE IN SURGE SITUATION. COUNSELOR ALSO CALLED KRIANGSAK'S ATTENTION TO FAA SECTION 659. KRIANGSAK INDICATED HE FAMILIAR WITH THAT LEGISLATION AND SHOWED RESENTMENT ANY EFFORT USE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AS ARM TWISTING IN MATTER INVOLVING THAI SOVEREIGN PEROGATIVE.
- 4. POLMIL COUNSELOR SAID IF JAN. 31 AND FEB. 3 UNACCEPTABLE FOR BASE MEDIA VISITS, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR GEN. KRIANGSAK TO APPROVE SOME DATE QUTE IN REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE UNQTE FOR THE VISITS. KRIANGSAK AGREED VISITS COULD OCCUR AFTER NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED, WHICH HE EXPECTED SOON. HE INDICATED WILLINGNESS APPROVE TIME FRAME FEB. 10-14 OR EVEN SOONER IF NEW GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE.
- 5. WHILE INFORMING NBC AND CBS OF DELAY OF VISITS, WE
  DID NOT USE PRECISE DATES DISCUSSED EVEN THOUGH GEN. KRIANGSAK
  HAD NO OBJECTION OUR DOING SO. PRECISE DATE FOR BASE MEDIA VISIT
  WOULD, OF COURSE, BE CONTIGENT ON PRIOR COORDINATION WITH WASHINGTON.

6. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH CINCPAC PA/LNO II
UTAPAO.
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 01740 302325Z

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, VISITS, JOURNALISTS, MILITARY BASES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 30 JAN 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO01740

Document Number: 1975BANGKO01740 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D750035-0372

From: BANGKOK Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975018/aaaaagqh.tel Line Count: 107 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: RowellE0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags Review Date: 09 JUL 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>

**Review Markings:** 

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**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BASE MEDIA VISITS POSTPONED TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, (KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN)

To: CINCPAC

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006